

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SP-02 /052 W
----- 105526

R 101242Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7391

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: ETUC, CGT, CGIL AND AFL-CIO

FOR WHATEVER MAY BE WORTH SUMMARIZED BELOW ARE BITS
OF INFORMATION AND OBSERVATIONS OFFERED BY QUAI
OFFICIAL WHO WAS IN GENEVA ON THE OCCASION OF SECOND
EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE:

A. CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS THE SEGUY-VETTER MEETING
IN CONNECTION WITH CGT APPLICATION TO JOIN ETUC DID NOT
TAKE PLACE. IN FACT WHAT BOTH PARTIES HAD HOPED TO
DO WHILE IN GENEVA WAS TO FIX A DATE FOR A MEETING.
EVEN THIS WAS NOT ACCOMPLISHED, HOWEVER, BECAUSE
VETTER CLAIMED TO HAVE FORGOTTEN HIS DATE BOOK IN
DUSSELDORF. THIS DID NOT PREVENT SEGUY FROM SAYING
PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY THAT THERE IS REALLY NO
OPPOSITION WITHIN ETUC TO CGT'S APPLICATION AND IT IS
ONLY A QUESTION OF SHORT TIME BEFORE CGT IS ADMITTED.

B. SEGUY ACCCOMPANIED BY RENE DUHAMEL, CGT INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS SECRETARY, LUNCHEON WITH THEIR OPPOSITE
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NUMBERS IN CGIL, LAMA AND BONACHINI. ALTHOUGH

ATMOSPHERE OF LUNCHEON WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN COOL, IT WAS NEVERTHELESS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS SITUATION WHEN SEGUY AND LAMA WERE HARDLY ON SPEAKING TERMS. CGT LEADERS WERE IMPRESSED BY CGIL'S COMMITMENT TO COMMON MARKET AND THEIR EARNESTNESS ABOUT THEIR ETUC MEMBERSHIP. CGT LEADERS WERE TAKEN ABACK BY LAMA'S UNWILLINGNESS TO "LIFT A FINGER" TO SUPPORT CGT'S APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO ETUC.

C. AFL-CIO AND PARTICULARLY IRVING BROWN WERE FREQUENT SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION IN AND AROUND THE CONFERENCE. SEGUY ISSUED A SPECIAL STATEMENT ON BROWN'S INTERVIEW WITH INT/ERSOCIAL (PARIS 5326) BUT HIS STATEMENT DID NOT APPEAR IN ANY OF THE FRENCH PAPERS, INCLUDING L'HUMANITE. ONLY ONE SWISS PAPER HAD A SMALL ITEM ON IT. THE TENOR OF THE COMMENTS AMONG CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS WAS THAT AFL-CIO HAS EMBARKED ON A STRATEGY OF ESTABLISHING A PRESENCE IN EUROPE AND, DEPENDING UPON THE SPEAKER'S POLITICAL VIEWS, THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS WELCOMED OR FROWNED UPON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS06025
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750083-0365
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750366/aaaachot.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETUC, CGT, CGIL AND AFL-CIO FOR WHATEVER MAY BE WORTH SUMMARIZED BELOW ARE BITS
TAGS: ELAB, EEWWT, FR, XX, US, AFL-CIO, ETUC, CGT, CGIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006